## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs:

Page 2, paragraph [0005].

[0001~~0005~~]    Accordingly, one embodiment provides a method of manufacturing an item of build-to-order equipment having at least one hardware component bearing a unique identifier ("component ID") in software readable form, the method comprising generating a digital identifier ("system trackcode") which defines the hardware and software configuration of the item, storing the system trackcode in association with the component ID in a non-specific external storage medium such that the component ID can be used as a key to retrieve the associated system trackcode, and at least at one stage of manufacture reading the component ID from the ~~said at least~~ one component and using it to retrieve the associated system trackcode from the external storage medium.

Page 4, paragraph [0013].

[0002~~0013~~]    Most, if not all, of the hardware components defined by the system trackcode will have a unique ~~manufacture's~~ manufacturer's identifier, such as a serial number, herein referred to as the component ID.  For example, ~~the~~ a system motherboard 16 has an optically readable barcode 18 containing a unique PPID number.  The same unique PPID number is also stored in software readable form on the motherboard 16.  Thus the PPID number is the component ID of the motherboard 16.

Page 5, paragraph [0016].

[0003~~0016~~]    After assembly 24, ~~the~~ a system unit 26 is powered up (first system boot) 28.  At this point, manufacturing software retrieves the unit's system trackcode from the EPPID database 22 by retrieving the software readable component ID from the motherboard 16 and using it as a key to access the database.  The system trackcode thus retrieved is then written to CMOS 20 on the motherboard 16.  From then on, during further manufacturing stages 30, manufacturing software can read the system trackcode from the motherboard 16.

Page 5, paragraph [0017].

[0004~~0017~~]    The first system boot can be initiated from a floppy disk if a floppy disk drive is present on the system unit under manufacture (although the ~~invention~~ embodiment does not require a floppy drive to be present, it does not rule it out).  Alternatively, the boot can initiated from the hard disk drive or from a network, such as with a Pre-boot Execution Environment (PXE) server using basic communications software installed in the system unit.  Where neither of the latter are possible, for example when RAID hardware is installed or no FAT partitions exist, boot can be initiated from a PXE server in the manner described in our copending patent application no. 10/406,462 filed April 6, 2003, assigned to the assignee of the present application.

Page 7, paragraph [0023].

[0005~~0023~~]    At step 100 the current hardware signature is generated in the manner previously described.  At step 102 the software attempts to read the system trackcode from the motherboard CMOS.  If this is the first system boot, and the motherboard 16 has not been used previously, there will be no trackcode in the

CMOS and the program moves to step 104 (Fig. 3) to retrieve the system trackcode. If, however, this is the first system boot and there is a system trackcode in the CMOS, this means that the motherboard 16 is being re-used, e.g. from a cancelled order. In that case the software reads the associated hardware signature in the database 22, step 106, and compares it at step 108, to the current hardware signature generated at step 100, step 108. Normally the two will differ, since because the CMOS trackcode normally relates to a previous order, but they may be the same if, for example, the system unit has been moved back to an earlier stage in the manufacturing process. If they are the same, the system unit moves on to subsequent manufacturing stages, step 110. If, however, the hardware signatures are different, the system trackcode in the CMOS 20 and the hardware signature in the database 22 relate to an "old" order, and once again the software moves to step 104 (Fig. 3).

Page 8, paragraph [0027].

[00060027] As mentioned previously, the component ID can be derived from any one of several different hardware components which have a unique software readable identifier, such as a manufacturer's serial number. The embodiment described above assumes that the component ID is always derived from the motherboard 16. However, optional software steps 132 and 134 allow the process to use any one of a number of different hardware components to be used to generate the component ID, and it is not necessary for the software to know in advance which particular one is used provided it has a list of the components which could be used. Thus, if at step 114 a system trackcode cannot be found in the database associated with the motherboard component ID, the software loop 132, 134, 112, 114 interrogates the database using the component ID from consecutive hardware components in the list. If one is found (YES at step 118) the process proceeds as before. If, however, none is found, control passes to step 116.